THE VETERINARY RECORD

A Weekly Journal for the Profession.

Edited by WILLIAM HUNTING, F.R.C.V.S.

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THE WINDERMERE MEETING.

The annual meeting of the National Veterinary Association opens at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 9th. The London and North Western Railway have arranged to provide a saloon and dining carriage for the accommodation of any members of the Association travelling to Windermere by the 11.30 a.m. train from Euston. The second class tourist ticket issued by the Company is available for two months at the reduced fare, to Windermere, of 42/-. This train does not stop between London and Crewe, so no arrangement could be made for intermediate stations. Members who join at Crewe will be able to travel in the Saloon carriage by meeting the train due there at 2.35.

There is just one word to say to some members of the Association who are a little careless of the rules, and perhaps a little thoughtless. Rule 27 says—"No person shall be considered a member till he has paid his subscription for the current year." Another rule provides that those in arrear shall be "suspended from all privileges of membership." These rules are never harshly enforced, but when arrears run to four or five years and men write to repudiate all responsibility, after accepting all they can get every year, it seems necessary to anticipate action on the part of the officers of the Association. Clearly it is not just that men who never pay should receive year after year copies of the published proceedings, invitations to parties and excursions, and the privilege of hearing and assisting at the discussions of the Association.

To prevent disappointment it would be well for all gentlemen much in arrear to communicate with the Treasurer without delay.

No doubt some of those in arrear have reasons for it. Possibly misunderstanding at the time they entered. The proper thing to do is to send a written resignation when it is intended to cease subscribing. Even the return of the papers and invitations when they are not wanted, and not paid for, would not be a great tax on courtesy. Anyhow, it is evident that members who pay cannot allow all their privileges to be interminably enjoyed by those who won't pay and won't resign, and who at the end of nearly a decade resent being asked to pay.

THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF HYGIENE.

This Congress opens with great ceremony at Brussels on the morning of September 2nd.

About 50 printed papers, dealing with all sorts of subjects have been posted to the members who have subscribed. The discussions are continued to the 8th, and then some four days may be utilised by those attending in personally conducted tours through slaughterhouses, dairies, drains, waterworks, and innumerable other places where the health of the people is provided for or guarded. The paper on Tuberculosis is a large volume in itself.

ON ERRORS.

By E. WALLIS HOARE.

In every department of life errors are made, and the more perplexing the nature of the work and the greater observation, natural ability and discrimination required the more likely are errors to occur. There are some men who maintain that their mistakes are few and far between, in fact to so high a level have they attained that they are surprised when an error is brought home to them.

Errors are brought about in various ways, some are unavoidable; others could be averted by the exercise of a little care, discretion, and forethought. In veterinary practice, for obvious reasons, errors are easily made. There is no class of work in which more careful observation is necessary, or where early training of the mind is of more importance. Errors may occur in the diagnosis of disease and of lameness; in treatment both medical and surgical, and in the examination of horses as to soundness. It is fortunate for us that some mistakes on our part are never discovered.

Occasionally one too glaring to be concealed crops up, and unless we possess sufficient tact to get out of the difficulty reputation is bound to suffer in consequence; to what extent of course depends on the standing of the practitioner. If well established and able to inspire his clients with confidence, an error on his part would be overlooked which in a junior would be considered a serious matter. Clients judge of the ability of a practitioner by the number of mistakes they discover—not, in reality, by the number of mistakes made. Once a reputation is established mistakes may be made *ad lib*, but they are glossed over and overlooked. The more experienced the practitioner the better is he able to conceal his mistakes.

It is unfortunate in many ways that the public imagine that practitioners of "good repute and carriage" are almost infallible as regards opinion and treatment. If those who have reached the pinnacle of fame and have laid by the "nest egg" would only admit that they are capable of giving erroneous opinions as well as their less favoured brethren it would be of advantage not only to those who are attempting to climb "young ambition's ladder," but to the profession generally.

It happens, however, more frequently than is desirable that some leading lights, when called into consultation, assume a supernatural air of knowledge and dignity, and while they may not openly assert that an error in diagnosis or treatment has occurred, the supercilious smile and "damn with faint praise" demeanour is sufficient evidence of their opinion of

the case. Very ingenious are the devices adopted to cloak over any possible chance of error on the consultant's part; more especially are these necessary if the attending practitioner is one who refuses to be sat on, and who has sufficient pluck to follow the case to a finish.

Errors in the diagnosis of disease occur to every practitioner, although we are well aware that all do not admit the "soft impeachment." When the case recovers no one is the wiser, and it matters little what name we have given the disease. If the patient succumbs, unless the practitioner is anxious to improve his knowledge of diagnosis, nothing is heard of the actual state of affairs that was present, as post-mortem examinations usually show how frequently we err in our opinions.

To the so-called "practical man" it would appear absurd for anyone to remark that the early stages of pleurisy might be mistaken for an attack of spasmodic colic, but that such does occur we have plenty of evidence. This is not a matter for surprise as we read in medical journals that similar errors may occur, and cases are on record where the surgeon has explored the abdominal cavity, and afterwards found that the lesion existed in the thorax.

The number of erroneous opinions given in cases of gastric and intestinal affections must be admitted by every practitioner who is honest enough to express candid opinions on the subject. We hear from time to time of men who venture to give correct diagnosis in such cases, but the evidences afforded by post-mortem examinations render us sceptical on the subject.

As a rule we find that the men who are the most dogmatic in their opinions are those who seldom or never make post-mortem examinations; they are satisfied with the knowledge they possess, and do not wish to learn how frequently they make mistakes.

There are few diseases of the different systems of the body concerning which errors in diagnosis may not be made. We have on more occasions than one given an opinion that a horse was suffering from disease of the heart, but after events showed that the same animal worked sound for years in other hands. On the other hand we have passed a horse sound, and the same animal died suddenly a short time afterwards, the autopsy showing the existence of a cardiac affection.

Take that disease known as azoturia, simple enough to diagnose in ordinary cases and with a correct history, but instances occur where the symptoms presented are unusual and the history given incorrect. If a horse is found unable to rise, there is considerable difficulty in arriving at a correct diagnosis. Cases do occur in which an opinion is given that some spinal injury or disease is present and that the animal will never get up again, but *mirabile dictu*, a little time and assistance may bring the apparently paralysed animal to his feet, often to the chagrin of the practitioner who has given the adverse opinion.

We learn valuable lessons from such errors, and while our faith in our skill is materially shaken and our belief in stereotyped diagnostic symptoms receives a rude shock also, the tendency is to give a guarded opinion in the future. And we might add a practical hint, *i.e.* if we order a horse to be destroyed as incurable it is very important to see that the sentence is carried out in our presence.

Experience teaches us how very careful we should be in ordering the destruction of cases that to our minds seem hopeless. By the irony of fate some of these cases do recover, and there are few of us indeed who have not had such an experience. To give a dogmatic opinion that a certain serious case is bound to die, or that another which does not appear serious is sure to recover, is dangerous practice. The apparently simple case of colic may be the forerunner of a fatal affection, while a case presenting grave alteration in the character of the pulse etc., with certain other attitudes and gestures usually regarded as fatal symptoms, may recover. And so it has occurred that the horse stated to be a hopeless case and placed in a stall close to the door for facility of removal by the knacker, may be found alive and convalescent in the morning. A guarded opinion is the only preventive to such errors, and a working diagnosis with plenty of scope for further developments should always be aimed at.

More especially is this necessary if the client is unreasonable and expects the practitioner to possess supernatural ability. Recently, while attending a case of obscure intestinal affection, the owner appeared on the scene and poured forth such a series of leading questions that it required a considerable degree of tact to formulate answers to suit the exigencies of the case. What was wrong with the horse? How did he get it? Why did he get it? Is it colic, inflammation of the bowels, strangulation etc? Will he be all right to-morrow? When can he go to work? How can a future attack be prevented? On mildly suggesting to him that the symptoms presented were very serious, and that unless some improvements occurred the animal would die before many hours, great was his surprise, and with suppressed indignation he demanded—Why should the horse die if properly treated? But the animal did die all the same, and on telephoning to this ideal his summing up of the case was "neglect." Fortunately he could not accuse us of having given an incorrect opinion.

In the diagnosis of fractures, great discrimination is necessary in order to avoid errors. At times mistakes will occur in spite of every precaution; but acting on the principle of "once bitten twice shy," leads us to avoid giving hasty opinions.

For example, fractures of the shaft of the ilium without displacement are not diagnosed with facility, and an opinion may be given that no fracture is present, which after events prove only too clearly to be incorrect. It is difficult to conceal such an error, and it is far wiser in a doubtful case to avoid giving a definite opinion at the time, leaving room for the possible development of a more serious state of affairs.

Fracture of the first rib, in spite of all the diagnostic features that have been suggested, still gives ample scope for an erroneous opinion. Should the horse recover no one is much the wiser, if, on the

other hand, a post-mortem is held the true state of affairs is brought to light. But the well-known symptoms do not always indicate fracture of the first rib, as we have found to our cost on more occasions than one. The consultant endowed with supposed supernatural powers of diagnosis occasionally shines in the detection of fractures. Not, however, in those whose existence is demonstrated by an autopsy, but rather in less serious cases where he can dogmatically assert that a certain lesion exists, and adopt elaborate surgical means for the treatment. Of course his opinion is believed and he obtains the *kudos*; the recovery of the case being ascribed to his skill in diagnosis. But it is quite possible that the attending practitioner may have been right after all.

In the diagnosis of lameness we all make errors, some are unimportant, as rest and Nature render the animal sound. Others cannot be concealed, *e.g.*, when pus appears at the coronet after we have located the lameness in another region. This is a common error, and at times will occur to the most careful and experienced practitioner. As we grow older no doubt it happens less often, probably because our examination of the foot becomes more thorough, and we are not satisfied with the *ipse dixit* of the farrier who has removed the shoe.

Foot lameness may be an obscure term, but in reality it expresses our actual state of knowledge of many cases of lameness. We used to rely on navicular disease as a convenient term, but having learned that a number of these cases ultimately went sound, we were forced to mend our hand. But our faith was still further shaken when a post-mortem examination of a number of such cases proved that there was not a trace of what is recognised as navicular disease.

Given a case showing marked lameness at starting, improving with exercise, a small foot with contracted heels, pointing, short action, etc., heat around coronet, tender to the hammer, and liable to become very lame after being newly shod, we naturally come to the conclusion that the seat of lameness is in the foot. But what the actual disease is or what the termination of the case may be, are points not easy to decide, and an erroneous opinion may easily be given. Whether the lameness arises from the foot or a suspicious-looking splint has often to be determined, and as a last resource we have at times to fall back on that convenient term —rheumatism.

That popular seat of lameness—the shoulder, we become more doubtful about as we get older, more especially when we are aware that a sufficient period of rest will cure any case of disease in this region that *is* curable. It does surprise us at times, however, to find evidences of recent blistering on a shoulder, the horse still very lame, and possessing a splint quite sufficient to account for the lameness.

When a suspicious looking splint and a suspicious foot exist together we may be placed on the horns of a dilemma, unless we do what is considered safe by some practitioners, viz., to blister the coronet and the splint at the same time.

Neurectomy offers a safe way out of some difficulties in diagnosis, *e.g.*, if the low operation be performed and the horse goes sound the operator gets the credit. We are sceptical enough, however, to suggest that the lameness may have existed in some other region and a spontaneous cure was the result.

In hind leg lameness errors frequently occur in diagnosis. Some may imagine they can locate the seat of lameness by the action of the horse, so we are told of the characteristic action of hip lameness, stifle lameness, hock lameness, etc. In spite of depending on these aids to diagnosis, errors will occur, and after the hip has been blistered, or the stifle similarly treated, recourse is had to firing the hock, and very often the latter is successful. It must be remembered however that the rest which the treatment of hock lameness ensures may be sufficient to cure lameness situated elsewhere.

In the examination of horses as to soundness, errors of two kinds are likely to occur. Firstly, in overlooking the presence of defects. Secondly, in mistaking structures that are normal for diseased conditions. We may add errors in describing the age of the horse, *e.g.*, a forward four-year-old mouth may be mistaken for a late five-year-old, or *vice versa*. Anomalies in the appearance of the permanent teeth are common enough, and what is laid down as the characteristic mouth of a four or five-year-old cannot always be relied on. Peculiarities of action have been mistaken for lameness, coarse hocks for spavins, and small feet for indications of unsoundness. On the other hand, a horse suffering from intermittent foot lameness may have the best looking feet and be passed as sound, while hocks that look like standing work may be the seat of disease. As a bad looking watch may keep the best of time, so it may happen that suspicious-looking structures may stand the effects of work. The public usually judge by results, and as lameness cannot be concealed they judge very severely, and often unjustly, errors made in these respects.

But errors in questions of soundness will occur in spite of all precautions, and it is of the greatest importance that clients should be aware of this fact. Of course we are often unjustly accused of making mistakes by ignorant clients, who imagine that once a horse is passed sound he should continue in this happy condition. If a horse is examined say at four years old and a certificate of soundness given, some of our "cranky clients" wax very wroth if in twelve months time the same animal is found to be a whistler.

The public require to be educated on the matter, and one important step in this direction is that senior men with a great reputation should throw off the cloak of infallibility and admit that they are liable to give erroneous opinions at times.

In conclusion we may state that in canine practice we make mistakes frequently. Some have a happy ending; many are never discovered by ourselves or the clients; others are melancholy in the event. A few examples will suffice.

A collie dog is brought with a history of walking very stiff in both hind legs and having great difficulty in walking upstairs. A dose of calomel is pre-

scribed and a liniment for the spine. Next day the fair owner appears and reports that shortly after giving the medicine the dog vomits two large pieces of gravel and gets well almost immediately.

A small terrier puppy is brought with a history of sudden abdominal pain, constant attempts at vomition, the abdominal region is very much distended, especially on the left side, and tender on pressure; the pain is very acute, the animal constantly shrieking, Diagnosis probably intussusception.

Post-mortem.—Obstruction of almost the entire course of the small intestine, with coils of parasites, the *Ascaris Marginata*.

Many cases might be cited of suppressed distemper that have been overlooked, of cases put down as rabies which after events proved to be a simple affection, of errors in the diagnosis of tumours, and last, but not least, of fractures. We learn a great deal from every error made, we are more observant on future occasions, but often we may prove too careful in giving an opinion.

The public admire dogmatism, and regard a deferred opinion as evidence of weakness and lack of confidence. Give the disease a name and stick to it, be definite and unvarying in the treatment, use bluff to hide mistakes, don't delay over the diagnosis, and inspire the clients with your superior knowledge, while you carefully conceal your ignorance on any point. These are the essentials of success from a financial standpoint; however much they may be opposed to the ideal which we pictured when commencing practice.

HERNIA IN A COW.

Some time ago I was called to attend a cow with a swelling on the right hand side of the root of the tail. I took it to be a sero-sanguineous abscess, probably due to a blow from a milking stool or to a similar cause, and opened it. About a pint of blood and serum escaped and something came into view which I took to be a part of the contents of the uterus and which looked very like the amnion. I put my hand into the swelling and traced this body up to the root of the tail and in so doing manipulated what felt like cotyledons. I did no more manipulating but got the cowman to foment the swelling with antiseptic fluid and keep the cow up, and drove back home for needles and suture material.

On my return I sutured the skin with iodoform tape; and the cow was sold nine days after to the butcher. I examined the cow per rectum but could get no light on the matter from that quarter. I did not examine per vaginam because she was about four months gone in calf. Perhaps some of your readers have met with a similar case. Was it a uterine hernia?

G. M.

Docking Army Horses.

Mr. Root, the Secretary for War, has prohibited tail-docking and all unnecessary clipping of the tails and manes of horses in the military service.—Reuter, Washington, Aug. 8.

ABSTRACTS FROM FOREIGN JOURNALS.

The Emphysematous Fœtus.—By M. G. de Bruin.

The occurrence of emphysema in the fœtus *in utero* is the result of the access of the bacteria of putrefaction after death. The dead fœtus forms a good nourishing media in the steady body temperature of the system and very soon products of metabolic assimilation of the lower organisms occur. Especially gases arise which produce the customary external change of form. In practice the emphysematous fœtus is the most important thing occasionally met with in a normal birth.

The ways in which putrefactive bacteria gain entrance into the fœtus are by the cervical canal and the circulation. The first method of infection occurs as a rule in the mare and cow; the second, the hæmatogenous, occurs often in swine (1). On the lower organisms which occur bacteriological examinations have been conducted by Lucet (2).

Although an emphysematous calf may lie in quite a normal position it is most customary to find that the death of the calf is due to delayed parturition through abnormal position, buttock presentation, torsio uteri, or badly dilating cervix. In emphysematous calves I frequently meet with the first named abnormal position.

That the cervix is unfavourably dilated when there is an emphysematous calf must be most frequently ascribed to lack of mechanical dilatation through absence of the water bag (liquor amnii). This incomplete dilatation of the cervix causes not only difficult extraction of the fœtus but it predisposes to laceration or tearing of the cervix with fatal result.

The following cases lately occurring in our clinic for parturition show to what dimensions an emphysematous calf can in a short time attain, and what difficulties the obstetrician has to contend with—that in some cases the cow cannot be delivered of the calf even by means of embryotomy.

Case I.—On April 26th, 1903, a cow came in the ambulatory clinic for treatment. The cow had for 36 hours showed labour pains, yet there was no water bag in evidence, and the cow strained continually. An empiric was called in who with great trouble explored the track and found it very narrow. He vainly tried to widen it by pressing and pushing. I was called in the night to help.

Status præsens.—Well nourished six-year-old cow. Temperature 39° C, Patient could not stand well, general condition soporific. Exploration showed that there was a torsio uteri of 180° to the right, and by following the wrinkles with the hand one could reach the uterus and feel the head and forequarters of the calf. The hair easily came off the fœtus, and the claws could be drawn off, and if one passed one's fingers over the the skin one could hear the crackling of the gases. In exploration the air was pervaded with a mawkish stinking smell (butyric acid and ammonia fermentation).

After rolling the cow and fixing the calf the birth track was widened, and it was evident that extraction of the fœtus entire was out of the question, but

that by embryotomy it might be done. Both forelegs were taken away, the head and neck drawn outside the vulva and cut off. In removing the thoracic walls and eviscerating the calf the cow suddenly died.—(Ex. *Berliner Thierärzt Woch.*)

(To be continued) G. M.

TOXIN OF THE BACILLUS OF FOWL CHOLERA.—By V. STANG.

The bacterium avicidum secretes a soluble poison which is diffused in the culture liquid. But this poison is so small in quantity that it requires the whole of it produced in a culture to bring about sleep in the bird. Pasteur had already found this. However, a pigeon can be killed with larger doses. This poison is not found in appreciable quantity in the body of the bacilli.—(*Thesis for the Veterinary Faculty of Berne*, 1901.)

SERO-THERAPY OF CALVES SUFFERING FROM SEPTIC PLEURO-PNEUMONIA WITH SEPTICIDINE OR SEPTIZIDIN.—By HERR EVERS.

The author has had good results from inoculating calves on the day of birth with 10 c.c. of septicidine to which a certain quantity of the culture of the septic pleuro-pneumonia microbe has been added. If the calf is already affected the dose is raised to 20 or 30 c.c. The drug is prepared by a firm in Landsberg.—(*Rec. de Méd. Vét., 15 Juillet, 1903*).

H. G.

VETERINARY SOCIETIES

NORTH OF SCOTLAND VETERINARY MEDICAL SOCIETY.

A meeting was held on Saturday afternoon, August 15th in the Agricultural Department, Marischal College. Mr. J. M'Lauchlan Young, Lecturer on Veterinary Hygiene, Aberdeen University, President of the Society, presided, and was accompanied on the platform by Principal Williams, of the New Veterinary College, Edinburgh, and President of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons of Great Britain, Principal Lang, and Mr. Clement Baxter, M.R.C.V.S., Elgin, secretary.

The CHAIRMAN said their Society was indeed honoured that day in having the presence of the Principal of their University, and Principal Williams from Edinburgh. They were still further honoured by the fact that they were to have an address from Principal Williams, who, as they all knew, occupied the honourable position of President of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons in Britain. So much energy and ability did he throw into his period of office for the first year that quite recently the Council of the Royal College re-elected him to the honourable position of President, an honour which, although not quite unique, was very rare indeed, and one which he was perfectly certain the Principal appreciated very highly. Principal Williams had come there that day to address them upon a very important question indeed, namely the raising of the status of veterinary surgeons, and to bring the profession into line with the other learned professions—(hear, hear)—the idea being that Universities might recognise the veterinary profession in the same way as they recognised the other professions.

VETERINARY EDUCATION: WHAT IT WAS, IS, AND OUGHT TO BE.

Address by PRINCIPAL WILLIAMS.

Principal WILLIAMS, who was received with hearty applause, remarked at the outset that his sole ambition in life was the promotion of the good of the veterinary profession. His father was a veterinary surgeon, his grandfather was a farrier, and his four great-grandfathers all earned their livelihoods by attending to the lower animals—(laughter and applause.) Some of them were very proud men. One of his fore-parents would not go out to cases on Sunday, another of them would not see anything but horses, but as they came down they came to understand that veterinary surgery was comparative surgery, and that they had to attend any of the lower animals when called upon. Among his ambitions in connection with the profession had been to put themselves on proper social equality with men they considered themselves equal to. Another ambition he had was to place themselves on a scientific equality with men with whom they were quite competent to work.

As regards the social ambition, he had the honour to be appointed to sit on a committee appointed by the War Office in connection with the status of the veterinary surgeons in the Army Veterinary Department. It was not a month ago since he had an interview with Mr. Brodrick on this subject. He pointed out to Mr. Brodrick that so long as the War Office stamped them as an inferior body of men in the Army, it was highly improbable that the Army would be properly equipped with fully qualified veterinary surgeons. Mr. Brodrick said he saw his (Principal Williams's) point. The Army veterinary surgeon was supposed to be on an equality now, but he was not quite on an equality, and he (Principal Williams) hoped before long, within a month or two, the veterinary surgeon would be on an exact equality—(applause.) That would be one step towards the attainment of his desires.

The next step that he desired to see was to bring the veterinary profession in line with the medical profession. They might take it for granted that to a very considerable extent the veterinary surgeon of the present day was well qualified to deal with the ordinary diseases of the lower animals, when these diseases presented themselves, but they were of opinion that they had to fill a much larger sphere in life than the simple treatment of disease. Their aim was to prevent disease affecting lower animals, for they all knew that the health of stock meant wealth to the stockowner. But they would go a step further and not only express their desire to keep the stock of the country in good health, but to assist the medical men in preventing the spread of disease common to man and the lower animals from the lower animals to man, and they trusted that the medical men would also assist in preventing the spread of disease in men to the lower animals. This ambition was beyond the scope of the ordinary veterinary surgeon, and a man to fill a post of such a description must not only be a well qualified veterinary surgeon, but he must also be a comparative pathologist, and he should also be a man with considerable administrative ability and with administrative power. At the present day there was a medical officer of health to almost every district throughout the country, and, whenever there was an outbreak of contagious disease in man, that medical officer had full power to take immediate steps for the suppression of the disease and the prevention of the spread of the disease.

Those of his audience who were not members of the veterinary profession would hardly believe what he was going to tell them—that there was no such thing as a Veterinary Officer of Health outside of London, that

there was only one man in the whole of Great Britain who was supposed to be able to recognise the more important of the contagious diseases of the lower animals, and it was hardly credible to think that should a certain disease break out at John O'Groat's House, no one but that specialist in London was entitled by law to authoritively state whether it was, or was not, a certain disease. The members of the medical profession would readily recognise that when a disease that spread with great rapidity, that had a period of incubation of three days, was permitted unchecked to continue its ravages until the London authority had stated whether or not it existed at John O'Groat's House, that there was little chance of that disease ever being exterminated from the country. He would urge the decentralisation of administrative power as regards the contagious diseases of the lower animals. But before decentralisation of the power of diagnosis and administration should take place, it was absolutely necessary that men should be ready to fill such places.

The education of the ordinary veterinary surgeon, as he had said, was ample to qualify him as a veterinary surgeon, but he required to study comparative pathology, sanitary science, and police, and have a broad knowledge of agriculture, to make a special study of the administration of the various Acts of Parliament, and he also required to have a broadened mind. Principal Williams did not think a man could attain these acquirements unless he mixed with others than teachers and students of veterinary medicine and surgery alone; and he should further urge that, for the sake of the country, Universities should assist in the education of men to fill what he considered a natural want. He did not ask any University to simply create a degree in veterinary science without thoroughly considering the special subjects that such a man as he had outlined would require to know. Such a degree granted by Universities in Scotland, after consulting with the heads of the veterinary profession as to the subjects required, would be much sought after by members of the profession desirous of filling many of the administrative posts in our colonies. Our colonies at the present time wanted veterinary surgeons of administrative ability. The principal administrative officer for the whole of South Africa as regards the regulations in connection with the lower animals—a most important post indeed—was a man who came from this part of the country—Mr. Duncan Hutcheon, one of the most worthy of men. Because he was a Scotchman he had administrative ability, because Scotchmen were able, at least, to administer their own affairs, they were well adapted to administer the affairs of others—(applause.) A Scot hman—Mr. Gilruth)—also occupied a similar position in New Zealand.

But if a University simply issued a statement—that there would be a degree for veterinary surgeons who attended on such and such subjects and pass examinations on such and such subjects, and these were not the subjects of paramount importance in the eyes of the veterinary profession, such degrees would not be sought after, because they would not be of special advantage to their holders. Sir Christopher Nixon, the President of the Royal Veterinary College, Dublin, had expressed his desire that the University degree should be granted to veterinary surgeons, and he stated that this degree should not confer any right to practice; it should be granted to those who hold the diploma of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. Principal Williams perfectly agreed with Sir Christopher and his desire. He (the Principal) was most emphatic in desiring that any university degree that was to be granted to veterinary surgeons must be open to all members of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, no matter from which college they had graduated. He (the speaker) was an ambitious man, and he had no doubt their president, Mr. Young, was equally ambitious, and they each would like to have it in their power to try and obtain a university degree, but neither of them could possibly go back to college as students, and pass through a certain specified curriculum, though both of them, and many others in the profession, would be only too delighted to take post-graduate lectures as recognised by universities in convenient centres, and then present themselves for the degree examinations.

If Aberdeen University should see its way to obtain an ordinance, create a faculty, and grant a degree to holders of the diploma of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, he had no doubt that numbers of veterinary surgeons in the north of Scotland would attend the post-graduate classes and endeavour to obtain the degree. If Aberdeen University would go a step further and recognise the teaching of the subjects in its post-graduate course as taught, say, in Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds, Cambridge, London, and other university centres, he had no doubt that the veterinary surgeons in the immediate vicinity of those universities would attend the classes at those Universities, and, when ready, present themselves for the Aberdeen University degree in veterinary science. (Applause.)

Principal Lang, who was received with applause, having been called on by the Chairman, said he was sure Principal Williams had made out a very strong case indeed for the consideration of the Universities, and he could only say for the University he represented that they were quite open—they had a candid mind for all that implied the extension of University instruction, of University imprimatur. (Applause). He was quite certain that on any representation being made to them they should most candidly and most sympathetically discuss and consider either with the other Universities or by themselves the suggestions that might be made. People were realising more and more every day the close connection that existed between the health of human beings and the health of the lower animals, and then the development of the scientific spirit must help materially, because that scientific spirit did not recognise the divisions and limitations that the unscientific spirit did. He was sure anything that would tend to put a hall mark upon their work was in the interest of Society, and he could only say for himself, and he was sure also for his colleagues, that whatever they could do to forward their interests and to realise for them the place Principal Williams had indicated, they (the University authorities) should under wise conditions be ready to consider and promote. (Applause.)

Professor Hamilton, who was next called upon by the Chairman, said he felt there was in Principal Williams's address a great deal of matter worthy of discussion and serious consideration. The veterinary profession was not what it used to be. It had now become a profession, which must be grounded on a scientific basis. There was an enormous deal to be done. So long as agriculturists were losing hundreds and thousands of pounds yearly from what were probably preventable diseases, he thought it was a slur on the scientific education of this country that they would not take further measures to educate their veterinary surgeons to understand these diseases, and more especially to understand them from the pathological point of view. He did not think there could be a more appropriate time than the present for the consideration of the relationship of the veterinary profession to our Universities. Speaking from his own professional point of view—from the pathological point of view—he became more and more convinced that their teaching in medicine was much too narrow, and that in fact the key to the progress of the consideration of the diseases of man was to be found in the future not so much from the study that actually proceeded through man himself, but was

to be found in the comparative study of medicine. He had that forced upon him of late in connection with some work he had been doing for the Board of Agriculture, and although he could not at that meeting give even a sketch of what that work was, he must say what he had learned from the study of some diseases of the sheep and other animals had opened up to him a new key to the study of medicine altogether—something he had no conception of, something that so far as he could see at present might explain a host of diseases of which they up to now had not the slightest conception as regards causation. As long as that was the case, he thought it was of the very greatest importance, even from the medical point of view, that they should be associated in some way with the veterinary profession. (Applause) What was wanted was that they should be in a position to give their young men a thorough grounding in the science of the profession which would enable them to go forward instead of groping in the dark. In that respect, as in many other respects, it was extremely desirable that some arrangement should be come to by which their agricultural departments and veterinary colleges should be adapted with a degree. In Edinburgh there was apparently a movement on foot in that direction, and there was no reason why other universities should not take up the matter in the same spirit. It would be an extremely desirable thing for the country. It would lead to the saving of an immense deal of money, and it would also lead to the encouragement of commercial enterprise from the agricultural point of view and add a new spirit to it. (Applause.)

On the motion of the Chairman, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded Principal Lang for his very kind and sympathetic remarks regarding the profession, the Principal having to leave the meeting before the business was concluded.

Mr. James Thomson, M.R.C.V.S., Aberdeen, said he was very pleased to think that there had been held up to the younger generation prospects of a higher education, a more scientific training, which would lead to the veterinary profession being regarded by the public with much greater confidence and greater respect than hitherto.

Mr. Crabb, Aberdour, and Mr. M'Laren, Brechin, also spoke.

On the motion of the Chairman, very hearty votes of thanks were accorded to Principal Williams for his great kindness in coming so far to address the Society, and for his most interesting and instructive address, and also to Professor Hamilton for not only coming there that day but attending their previous meetings. The Chairman said he could assure them there was no one who had a more kindly spirit towards their profession than Professor Hamilton. He said so advisedly, because of the very close association between Professor Hamilton and himself for some time. (Applause).

Principal Williams, in acknowledging the vote of thanks advised the Society to exercise whatever influence they possessed with members of the Aberdeen University Council with the view of having their desires given effect to.

On the motion of Mr. Crabb, Aberdour, seconded by Mr. Howie, Alford, Mr. M'Lauchlan Young was unanimously re-elected President of the Society for the ensuing year.

The other office-bearers were also re-elected, and the Secretary was accorded a hearty vote of thanks for his labours during the past year.

A vote of thanks to the President closed the proceedings, and the members of the Society afterwards dined together in the Bon-Accord Hotel.

VETERINARY HIGH SCHOOLS IN GERMANY.

A diplomatic and Consular report 595 has been issued giving a report of the veterinary high schools in Germany. The report states that, following the example of the Ecoles Vétérinaires, founded in 1760, at Lyons and Alfort, Germany founded 11 veterinary schools or institutes at Universities between 1771 and 1829. At the present day there are five veterinary high schools in addition to the institute attached to the Giessen University, and the conditions of entrance and final examinations are regulated by the Empire and not by single States. As in other reports dealing with German education special attention is directed to "one of the most salient points in the German educational system—the desire to equip a young man with a thorough general education before allowing him to specialise his faculties and energies." Thus, intending students who cannot produce proof of having attended the normal instruction of class X. in a Gymnasium, Realgymnasium, or Oberrealschule can only enter as extraordinary students, and are not admitted to the final examinations. The ordinary age for entrance is 17, and the usual course is for three and a half years, though perhaps half of the students remain longer and study for four, five, or six years. The curricula, organisation, and financial *status* of the veterinary schools of Stuttgart, Dresden, and Munich are taken as typical of the rest. Many works in veterinary science and allied subjects are published annually. The fees are lower than at the technical high schools, those of Berlin, which is one of the most expensive, being £4 per term, and for entrance and diploma at leaving, £3 12s. The diploma examination consists of two parts—(1) natural science ; (2) veterinary science. The second part is partly written and partly *viva voce* and public and consists of three sections—(1) anatomical and physiological ; (2) clinical ; (3) final. The number of students has increased steadily from 395 in 1879 to 1,470 in 1902. The report also gives a comparison with the state of veterinary teaching in other countries, remarking that Germany is superior to some and inferior to others, and a statement of the increase or decrease of various diseases of animals. In conclusion, the report testifies to the high position veterinary science has won for itself, and refers to two proposed reforms. The first is to merge the veterinary high schools into the old Universities, and the second is to grant them the privilege of conferring degrees.—*The Times.*

RHODESIAN CATTLE DISEASE.

African Coast Fever.

In presenting this my second report on African Coast Fever, allow me to supplement it by stating that at this stage of our work I cannot furnish what may be looked upon as a complete record of results, but I can only indicate the direction in which our researches are being prosecuted, how they proceed, and at what stage they have arrived. Experiments in African Coast Fever require much longer than rinderpest experiments. In rinderpest negative or positive experimental results are forthcoming in every case in from one to two weeks, whereas in African Coast Fever four weeks are necessary, as the incubative period of the disease is still uncertain, and in the case of tick experiments, the time taken up is even longer, one or two months being occupied in hatching out the ticks and one month more elapsing before the experiments can be considered concluded —this brings the total period necessary for tick experiments up to two or three months.

Experiments on Healthy Animals.

Soon after sending in my first report, a series of experiments on healthy animals were inaugurated. For these experiments our animals were drawn from the Plumtree District in the South of Rhodesia, which is at present free from disease. Our healthy animals were forwarded by rail from Plumtree and detrained in Bulawayo, whence they were driven by road to Hillside Camp.

On their arrival there, to prevent any likelihood of accidental infection *en route*, each animal was well sprayed with a 25 per cent. solution of paraffin in water and then all were placed in buildings enclosed by a wire fence surrounding these at a distance of four yards. To prevent any possibility of ticks being harboured within the enclosure, all vegetation and grass has been removed within the fence, and the cattle are fed upon imported forage brought up from Kimberley, a disease-free area. That these precautions are a sufficient protection, is shown by the fact that no case of extraneous infection has occurred amongst these animals since they arrived in Bulawayo.

On the arrival of each lot of healthy animals, their blood was submitted to a preliminary microscopical examination. This examination revealed the remarkable fact that the blood of many of them contained the ordinary pear-shaped, micro-organism of common Texas fever or redwater, indicating that in the Plumtree District ordinary Texas fever is an endemic disease.

Amongst the first batch of Plumtree animals received, numbering 18, pear-shaped organisms were present in no fewer than eight cases, although all the animals were apparently in perfect health, indicating that their infection with the disease was not of recent date, but was of rather long standing. This fact has an important bearing upon the whole investigation and must be taken into consideration in our future work.

Some experiments made with the blood of these animals which contained the micro-organisms of ordinary redwater, and data furnished me by Chief Veterinary Surgeon Gray, prove conclusively that ordinary redwater infection has existed along the main transport roads throughout Rhodesia, between Bulawayo and the South, between Bulawayo and Salisbury, and along other trade routes, for a long time, and therefore every ox which has worked along these roads for any lengthy period may be reasonably suspected of harbouring in his blood the organisms of redwater.

What may be expected if Apparently Healthy Animals are Exposed to Infection with other Diseases.

Now we know that animals of this class living in a region where Texas fever is endemic, or which have come therefrom, may have relapses of this disease. These relapses are indicated microscopically by the appearance of numerous Texas fever organisms in their blood, and are most likely to occur if such animals are attacked by any other febrile disorder by which their vitality is lowered, as such a lowering of their vitality gives the Texas fever organisms a chance to multiply. An experience of this sort is not uncommon in rinderpest, and it has been found that when an animal immune to Texas fever and retaining in its blood the organisms of that disease is attacked by rinderpest, it may develop not only rinderpest but at the same time Texas fever. Much slighter causes than attacks of a serious disease of this class may induce relapses in specially predisposed animals, which have at some previous time suffered from redwater, mere elevation of temperature such as may result from overwork sometimes being sufficient.

This being our experience it might be expected that such predisposed animals which had previously suffered from Redwater might again show symptoms of it if attacked by African Coast Fever, and starting with such an hypothesis a very simple explanation is forthcoming for certain phenomena which have been observed during the present epidemic, such as the presence of large pear-shaped organisms in the blood in certain cases, and the occurrence of hæmoglobinuria. These pear-shaped parasites are not found in all cases of African Coast Fever, nor do they appear simultaneously with the bacillary organisms, but they show themselves in the later stages of the disease, while the hæmoglobinuria which we have observed occasionally we have only seen in cases in which the pear-shaped organisms, hitherto considered characteristic of Texas Fever, have been found along with the organisms of the bacillary type.

Record of Actual Work done.

In all we have examined the blood of ninety-one sick animals. In every instance we have found the small parasites of African Coast Fever, but only in ten cases have we found these parasites in conjunction with the larger pyriform organisms, and in six of the latter cases we have observed blood-coloured urine.

These observations bear out the view that amongst the animals whose blood we have examined there were a certain number of specially predisposed animals salted to ordinary Redwater, which again developed this disease as a result of the high temperature produced by an attack of African Coast Fever.

Comments upon the Course of the Outbreak amongst the Australian Cattle.

Evidence in support of this theory can also be adduced from a consideration of the outbreak which carried off the imported Australian cattle. Here we had animals susceptible to, and exposed to infection both with Redwater and African Coast Fever. Probably some were more susceptible to ordinary Redwater, or probably the incubative period of African Coast Fever is longer than that of Tevas fever, and for one reason or the other, Redwater of the usual Colonial type first appeared amongst them, while the "atypical" cases observed later on were probably the result of a predominant infection with African Coast Fever.

The probability that African Coast Fever has a longer incubative period than Texas Fever, and the occurrence of cases in which the organisms of African Coast Fever and of ordinary Redwater co-exist in the blood of certain animals, offers an explanation for the apparently positive results obtained by certain artificial infection experiments, which seemed to point to ordinary Redwater as the sole cause of the present outbreak, for if blood for inoculation is taken from an animal suffering from two diseases, one of which has a shorter incubative period than the other, the disease with the short incubative period will be the first to declare itself, and if the reaction produced is one with characteristic peculiarities, the outcome of such an inoculation experiment may be most misleading.

The Outcome of Inoculation Experiments of Healthy Animals.

When we began our experiments upon healthy animals we expected to be able to produce the disease without difficulty by subcutaneous inoculation with blood taken from sick animals, an easy matter in ordinary Texas fever in which the injection of 5 c.c., virulent blood almost always induces a severe and frequently a fatal attack, and as we understood inoculation with virulent blood in African Coast Fever had had a like effect, our surprise was the greater when we found that such inoculations were ineffective when we injected subcutaneously blood containing an abundance of the smaller parasites. As it was important to establish beyond dispute that such inoculations do not communi-

cate the disease many experiments were made with varying doses of blood, and in various ways. Instead of using defibrinated blood as we did at first, warm fresh blood drawn directly from the jugular vein was tried, injections being made subcutaneously, directly into the vein, and into the peritoneal cavity. In some cases the injected blood was mixed with an emulsion of spleen pulp and of lymphatic gland as these organs contain large numbers of multiplication forms of the parasite, as I have mentioned in my first report. In others virulent blood in large volume was injected, doses of 2,000 c.c. being introduced subcutaneously, and 500 c.c. intravenously, but by none of these methods did we succeed in producing the disease. None of the inoculated animals became sick, nor could the parasites be discovered microscopically in their blood. Even in those cases in which blood containing innumerable parasites was injected directly into the vein we were unable to find a single parasite the following day.

All our experiments, and they were many, indicate that the direct inoculation of healthy susceptible animals with the blood of animals suffering from African Coast Fever, will not reproduce the disease, and this remarkable fact separates still further African Coast Fever and Texas fever. In the one case no result follows blood inoculation while inoculation with the blood from the less fatal Texas fever is attended by most serious results.

The Effect of Inoculation with Virulent African Coast Fever Blood.

Although such inoculations in African Coast Fever fail to communicate the disease, they are nevertheless not without effect. Inoculated animals do not become sick, and parasites are absent from their blood, but when these animals are subjected to a second inoculation with virulent blood, the result of the second inoculation differs from that of the first, as we have observed that while the first injection of virulent blood produces either an insignificant rise of temperature on the two following days, or no rise at all, after the second inoculation a temperature reaction follows immediately which persists for one or two days, and which we may look upon as arising from the inoculation ; but what is still more important, after an incubative period from ten to twelve days a mild attack of African Coast Fever supervenes, characterised by the appearance of the usual small parasites in the blood, and generally by a temperature rise of some days' duration. In the course of twenty-one experiments we have succeeded in ten instances in producing a mild attack of the disease which clearly shows that such a result is not accidental, and we have now to determine which is the most certain method of producing this mild attack, what doses of virulent blood should be given, and what interval should elapse between the doses in order to be certain of inducing such an attack in every instance. Whether the incidence of such a mild attack confers any immunity I cannot say at present, but a consideration of the effect upon the animal organism produced by mild artificially induced attacks of other infectious diseases leads me to think that some degree of immunity may result.

How great this immunity may be, we will only be able to state when we have discovered a certain method of artificially reproducing the disease in the virulent form which it assumes when arising from veld infection, and this is another problem which has not yet been solved, although I hope we will overcome this difficulty either by a modification of some method of direct infection with virulent blood or by working indirectly on the lines in which natural infection occurs, through the medium of the tick.

Tick Infection Experiments.

With this object in view and for the purpose of ascertaining with certainty what tick may be responsible for the spread of this disease, numerous tick infection experiments have been initiated. Young ticks of all suspected species are being hatched from eggs laid by mature females taken from sick animals, and many have been placed upon healthy susceptible animals, but these experiments have not reached that stage at which we may expect to get conclusive results ; tick infection experiments, as I have already remarked, being particularly tedious and taking up much time.

Other Experimental Work.

Concurrently with this work we are conducting experiments with a view to obtaining a curative serum. At first I intended to prepare an anti-toxic serum which would tend to neutralise the toxic products of the organism. For such a purpose the animal whose serum it is proposed to use is inoculated with gradually increased doses of virulent blood, and working on these lines, we have now several animals which are highly fortified, but since we have discovered that healthy animals are also able to resist large doses of virulent blood, I have also decided to prepare animals by inoculation with successive large doses of virulent blood for the purpose of obtaining a cytolytic serum. Such a serum possesses the property of directly attacking the specific parasite instead of neutralising its products as an anti-toxic serum would do, and we have now a number of animals fortified for producing such a cytolytic serum, but more time is required in order to enable us to produce a sufficiently powerful serum of this class for our experiments.

For the production of anti-toxin and cytolytic serum only immune animals can be used, as susceptible animals tend to break down under repeated injections of virulent blood, and for our work the immune animals taken over from the Transport Department, Salisbury, which survived the outbreak there and which have since been grazed continually on infected veld, have been most valuable. Of their immunity I think there can be little doubt, as none of them have shown any signs of indisposition after repeated injections with large doses of highly infected blood.

Our experience with the animals which we found here on our arrival has been less satisfactory. These animals lent by Bulawayo farmers many months ago had been subjected, previous to our arrival, to a series of inoculations, beginning with recovered and finishing with virulent blood, with a view to conferring immunity on somewhat similar lines to those by which animals are immunised against ordinary Texas fever. Most had been turned out of the Commonage for exposure to natural infection after the final inoculation, and an examination of their blood on our arrival revealed the presence of a few small parasites which I stated in my first report led me to believe they might be immune, but this unfortunately is not the case, as several (13 out of 29) have since developed acute attacks of African Coast Fever and died. From this we must conclude that the discovery of single small parasites in the blood of cattle exposed to infection with African Coast Fever, only proves that these animals have come in contact with some infecting agency, but does not indicate that they are capable of resisting further infection, as we previously supposed. Herein lies another point of difference between African Coast Fever and Texas fever, as the discovery of isolated pyriform organisms in the blood of animals which have been infected with Texas fever can generally be considered to indicate that under ordinary circumstances such animals will resist further infection with this disease, a conclusion unwarranted in dealing with African Coast Fever when we detect the presence of

isolated organisms in the blood of apparently healthy animals.

The presence of such small parasites in every case in which they are found can be taken, I believe, as a proof that the cattle whose blood contains them certainly come from areas where African Coast Fever infection exists. All our investigations on this point bear out such an assumption. Single parasites have been found in the blood of forty animals which have come from the infected areas of Salisbury and Bulawayo, while no such parasites have been found in thirty blood preparations sent from the Cape Peninsula, an area free from both Texas Fever and African Coast Fever. For the specimens sent from Cape Town I am indebted to Dr. Hutcheon, Colonial Veterinary Surgeon, who kindly arranged to have them forwarded to Bulawayo. In the blood of sixty-four animals from the clean district of Plumtree no such single parasites have been demonstrated, nor did an examination of blood preparations of other twenty-four animals, taken in the same district, reveal their presence, while it is particularly interesting to note that in the blood of seven animals brought from Beira and of the six brought from Dar-es-Salaam (German East Africa) for the purpose of testing their immunity, we found the same small parasites which were present in our local animals.

For the preparation of animals in order to obtain anti-toxic and cytolytic serums, much virulent blood was necessary, and at first its scarcity somewhat retarded our work, but latterly, thanks to the efforts of Mr. Marshall Hole, Civil Commissioner, Mr. Taylor, Chief Native Commissioner, and Mr. Gray, Chief Veterinary Surgeon, to the liberality of certain farmers in the Bulawayo District, and to the energy of Messrs. Fynn and McDonald in charge of the Fingo Location, Bembesi, who have sent in large numbers of sick cattle, contributed by the Fingoes, we have had no difficulty in carrying out this part of our work.

In all 78 sick animals have been obtained which have been of material service, enabling us to carry out a systematic observation of animals while sick, to obtain virulent blood for fortification purposes while they lived, while such as died furnished valuable material for careful post-mortem examination.

CRUELTY TO A MARE.

John Foster, farmer, of Crimea Farm, Lambley, was charged at Nottingham with causing cruelty to a mare, the prosecution being at the instance of Inspector Craigen, R.S.P.C.A.—Mr. H. B. Clayton defended.

Inspector Craigen said the case was one of the mare being turned out in a field and being unable to walk about to get its food.

Police-Constable Smith said he received information about the horse on the 11th inst., and on going to the field found the animal—a roan mare—turned out with a foal. It was lame in the near fore-leg and had a great swelling there. It was unable to put its foot to the ground. Foster said, "If there is going to be any bother, I will have her shot," and the animal was shot that day.—In reply to Mr. Clayton, witness said that apart from the lameness, the mare was not in bad condition, and there was plenty of grass for it had it been able to get it. The defendant was summoned for a similar offence twelve months ago, but the charge was dismissed. Foster told witness that he had expected him coming about it, and he only intended to keep the horse a month in any case. He was keeping it to suckle the foal.

Police-Sergeant Allen, Samuel Alfred Plumb, and Samuel Plumb, market gardeners, corroborated the evidence as to the condition of the mare. The sergeant said there were two holes in the animal's foot, and matter was oozing from both of them, and there was no appearance of them having been recently dressed. It could

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS 1894 & 1896.

SUMMARY OF RETURNS, WEEK ENDING AUGUST 22, 1903.

Period.	Anthrax.		Foot-and-Mouth Disease.		Glanders (including Farcy)		Rabies.		Swine Fever.	
							Cases Confirmed.			
	Outbreaks	Animals Attacked.	Outbreaks.	Animals Attacked.	Outbreaks.	Animals Attacked.	Dogs.	Other Animals	Outbreaks.	Slaughtered as Diseased or Exposed to Infection
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No	No.
Week ended August 22, 1903 ..	15	21	..	..	49	73	..	..	12	298
Corresponding week in 1902 ..	11	14	..	..	27	36	..	..	26	116
Corresponding week in 1901 ..	14	18	..	..	30	56	..	..	34	188
Corresponding week in 1900 ..	10	29	1	51	25	39	1	..	22	92
Total for 34 weeks, 1903	535	820	..	..	990	1605	..	..	1095	5,598
Corresponding period in 1902 ..	465	750	1	120	760	1339	12	11	1,202	5,455
Corresponding period in 1901 ..	430	610	12	669	893	1525	1	1	2,628	12,709
Corresponding period in 1900 ..	363	638	12	209	722	1223	1	..	1,470	14,513

NOTE.—The figures for the Current Year are approximate only.

Board of Agriculture, August 25th, 1903.

not get any food. When they went to fetch the diseased hoof after it had been shot, Foster said, "I would give £10 rather than you should take that; it will ruin my character."

Inspector Hollis, R.S.P.C.A., said he went with Mr. Taylor, veterinary surgeon, to Lambley, and examined the carcase of the mare. He afterwards saw the defendant, who said he had expected him coming, and only wished he knew who had given information about it. He added, "I shot her this morning with one barrel; if I had known who had given information I would have given him the other barrel." Witness asked him for the hoof, but the defendant said he should not have it at any price; it was going to the kennels the next day. Witness subsequently bought the foot from the man to whom defendant sold the carcase, and took it to a veterinary surgeon's. The diseased parts were found full of maggots, which had eaten nearly the whole of the inside of the foot away. The condition of the mare had been the general talk of the village.

Mr. Chas. Taylor, veterinary surgeon, described the condition of the hoof, which he said was a unique specimen. There was, he said, a very large growth on the hoof, and the holes in the foot were full of maggots. The mare ought to have been destroyed before she had the foal; the disease was incurable.

For the defence, John H. Green, veterinary surgeon, said he had seen the mare walking about the field when down at the farm. She was in excellent condition except for the lameness. He thought the defendant was justified in keeping the mare alive for the purpose of suckling the foal. When he saw the stomach after the mare had been killed it was full of food. He had told the defendant that although the mare should not be worked, he would be justified in keeping her alive to breed from.

The defendant, on being sworn, said that he had never worked the mare for the last eight months, and had kept her in the fields with 100 acres to go over. Her foal was a very good one, and he was anxious to keep it. There was plenty of grass for the mare, and she was supplied with maize and cake. Her foot had been washed with antiseptic two and three times a week to keep the flies away, and they had seen no signs of any maggots.

J. W. Ward and another employee of the defendant's named Selby gave evidence to the effect that the horse could get about the field to gather her food.—The Bench dismissed the case.

Misunderstood.

To the Editor of *The Westminster Gazette*.

Sir,—Having passed about thirty-five years of my life in horse-keeping and horse-breeding—horse-keeping whereby to earn my daily bread and horse-breeding so that I might break colts for my own use, I should like to offer some remarks as to how far I think that common-sense and fair play are shown the London horse by owner and driver. 1. There are horses at work in the London streets to-day and every day which ought long ago to have been accorded the Euthanasia of the equine cemetery. This needs no justification as a statement. Glance down any cab-rank and examine forelegs and eyes; look at the arrested pack of horses in any thoroughfare where the police have stopped traffic for a time, it is always the same result—overwork and strain, cataract, and other signs of equine old age, badly fitting collars, unnecessarily severe bits, and that sure portent of spavin, the bearing-rein. If I had a coachman who could not find in his divining hands the secret of a horse's mouth I would get another coachman; but I would not buy a bearing-rein. 2. Then no attention is paid, systematically, to the teeth of horses, and yet it is incontestible that most of the so-called "vice" of young horses arises from tender gums. And just when his teeth are shedding and his gums are full of sensitive spots the English breaker takes him in hand, and anyone who knows the average English horse-breaker will duly appreciate what *that* means! If the poet and the muse are rather born than made, I am sure this is true of the merciful breaker of horses. 3. Then I notice that far too many nails are used in the shoeing of London horses. I never myself allowed more than five nails for horses that were doing very fast trotting work in a hilly country. But if you pick up the foot of a London cab-horse and look at it you will find any number of nails from eight to a dozen. We are still waiting for the ideal shoe that can be taken off at night as our own shoes are taken off. 4. Then when a horse falls on a slippery road what an agony it is to see him try to right himself! He puts his metal shoe-edge at an impossible angle for "purchase," and back he goes again with an awful thud. We all know the spectacle. Now, if light vehicles had a common sack to put under his forelegs, and if heavy carts carried a box of cinders (to sprinkle fore and aft) the poor brute would soon find the purchase he seeks. 5. From the state of the coats of the better horses I fancy a good deal too much arsenic is being used still in the "higher" stables, and I do not think that sufficient importance is given to the fact that you cannot keep up a horse's condition with hard water. Water-softening devices would often be a saving of money in stables.

Sir, I have ventured to jot down these eye-notes in the hope that they may make keepers of horses think a little more and inquire a little more. And I am sure, if they do so, that my friend the horse will suffer less.

August 13th. GEORGE H. R. DABBS, M.D.

ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE.

The following are the principal medals and prizes awarded for the session 1903:—Coleman prizes—Silver medal, E. O'Reilly; bronze medal, H. L. Jones; certificate of merit, F. C. O'Rorke. Centenary prizes—Class A, A. L. Sheather; Class B, L. Danels; Class C, E. Brown; Class D, H. L. Jones. Royal Agricultural Society's medals—Silver medal, T. Bowett; bronze medal, H. L. Jones. Ralli prizes in practical surgery—First prize, £5 5s., W. H. Walker. Clinical prizes—First prizes of £5; Class A, A. W. N. Pillers; Class B, J. R. Hewer; Class C, R. L. Phillips; Class D, W. H. Walker.

OBITUARY.

THOMAS WM. WHITNEY, M.R.C.V.S., Shepton Mallet.
Graduated, Lond: 1875.

Mr. Whitney died on Sunday afternoon, Aug. 16, after a prolonged and painful illness, aged 54 years. He was well known over a very wide district as a veterinary surgeon of great skill, and was in constant request amongst the owners of valuable stock, by whom his talents in his profession were highly esteemed. A native of Tiverton, Devon, he qualified at the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons; in 1876 he settled in Shepton Mallet. He has ever shown himself ready to support such local institutions as appealed to his tastes to the utmost of his ability. He married a member of a well-known local family, and had one daughter—a young lady of great talent and popularity, but both wife and daughter predeceased him. The funeral of the deceased took place on Wednesday afternoon at Croscombe, in the churchyard of which place his mother, wife, and daughter were interred. Many of the agriculturists of the district attended, and the local Agricultural Societies—Mid-Somerset, East Somerset, and Compton Stud—of which he had been for so prolonged a period the hon. veterinary surgeon, were officially represented. Messrs. R. Brain and Welham, M.R.C.V.S., were present at the funeral.—*Shepton Mallet Journal.*

HENRY WILLIAM YOUNG, F.R.C.V.S., Chingford.
Graduated, Lond: 1896.

Mr. Young died suddenly, on Sunday last, 23rd inst., aged 28 years.

CORRESPONDENCE.

PASTEUR BLACKLEGINE."

Sir,

Some little time since I read an interesting and valuable contribution in the columns of *The Veterinary Record*, by Mr. Inglis, M.R.C.V.S., of Forfar, as to the efficacy of the "Pasteur" vaccine for the prevention of blackleg; and with the opinion so lucidly expressed by this gentleman I entirely concur.

Since January last I have used ninety doses of the single (cord form) of Blacklegine, obtained from Messrs. Huish & Co., Red Lion Sq., London, in the worst affected districts; and in each case where animals on the farm were already dead or dying I vaccinated what remained apparently healthy, and in each and every instance the operation secured immunity from attack and "quarter-evil" was seen no more.—Your obedient servant,

THOS. S. NEWBURY, M.R.C.V.S.

Penny Bridges, Ottery St. Mary, Devon.
August 12.

COMMUNICATIONS, BOOKS AND PAPERS RECEIVED.—Messrs. E. W. Hoare, J. R. Green.
The Yorkshire Post, *The Sheffield Daily Telegraph*.

Veterinary Societies—Addresses.

Alterations for this list must be duly notified by the Secretaries

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Meetings, Second Friday of Feb., June, and October

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Hon. Sec: Mr E. Lionel Stroud, F.R.C.V.S., 29 Spring-st., Hyde Park, W.
Meetings, First Thursday in each month, except August and September, 10 Red Lion Square. Holborn, at 7 p.m.

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Meetings, Second Thursday, Feb., June and October

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Meetings, Second Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday alternately in Feb., May, Aug. and Nov.

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Hon. Sec: Mr. E. R. Gibson, M.R.C.V.S. 25 Marlborough-street, Seaham Harbour
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Meetings, First Tuesday, March and September

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Meetings First Thursday in March, and Autumn.

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Hon. Sec; Mr. H G. Bowes, M.R.C.V.S., 6 De Grey-ter. Leeds
Meetings, Last Friday in Jan., April, and October, and a Thursday in July.